

31. The work left to be done in connection with Forest settlements is summarised below in the form prescribed in paragraph 3 of Government Resolution No. 5068, dated 29th June 1896:—

Division.	STAGES OF OUTSTANDING WORK.							
	OCCUPIED LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED.				Land to be notified under S. 4.	Land to be settled under S. 7.	Land to be notified under S. 19.	Total.
	By exchange or compensation.		Land to be notified under Land Acquisition Act.					
	Negotiations proceeding.	Negotiations completed.						
					A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.
Sukkur ...	...	...	...	...	1,794 7	176 37	...	1,971 4
Naushahro ...	...	...	...	...	2,773 32	1,618 15	...	4,392 7
Hyderabad ...	...	...	...	...	...	9,397 17	...	9,397 17
Jerruek ...	...	...	...	...	...	124 29	976 28	1,101 17
Total ...	...	...	...	...	4,567 39	11,317 18	976 28	16,862 5

32. As there has been no special Forest and Settlement Officer attached to this Circle since the end of March 1895, the different Assistant and Deputy Collectors have been appointed *ex-officio* Forest Settlement Officers in their own respective charges, and the work of enquiry and settlement in respect of the acquisition of lands notified under S. 4 of the Indian Forest Act is entrusted to them. The protracted delay prior to October 1896 in formulating proposals and submitting them with the necessary draft notifications under S. 19 in respect of the lands awaiting settlement is much to be regretted. The papers in several cases have now been with the officers concerned for over two years without any visible results. In the meanwhile, the Divisional Forest Officers, under instructions from this office, continued to remind the Forest Settlement Officers with a view to their settlement being expedited, but as their communications in more instances than one did not meet with a ready response, I took up the matter myself and addressed the different Collectors, pointing out what areas were awaiting to undergo enquiries, and asking their co-operation, which it is hoped will bring forth satisfactory results. Although it has to be admitted on the one hand that—the ordinary Revenue and Magisterial duties besides being always heavy—the officers concerned had, during a great portion of the year under report, to concentrate their energies in devoting their chief attention to the measures for the suppression of the plague, on the other, it has to be remembered that, the longer the interval that lapses between the issue of the notifications under Ss. 4 and 19, the worse is the fate of the areas proposed for reservation, as the reports received show that the tree growth on them, unguarded as it is, is being mercilessly hacked and wantonly damaged by goat-herds and other village population.

III.—Demarcation.

33. It is to be regretted that the demarcation of the areas afforested between 1893 and 1895 could not be completed by
Demarcation. Mr. Napier, who during the greater portion of the year continued to be Forest Demarcation Officer in addition to his duties as Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans. The chief reasons for this work having been left in an incomplete state at the close of the year were as follow:—

- (i) The inroads made by the river had so altered the shape of some of the newly afforested areas, while in others the maps prepared by Mr. Barrow were so utterly at variance with the configuration of the ground, that their demarcation could not be undertaken without further consultation with the

Revenue authorities, which, having entailed considerable delay, led to the work being postponed for the time being.

(ii) It was found that selections had been made to include within forest limits certain other "dehs" which are conterminous with those already afforested. It was, therefore, considered useless to lay out the boundary, only to be changed soon after.

(iii) The deputation of Mr. Napier to Plague duty and his subsequent serious illness, which necessitated his immediate departure to Europe on leave.

34. The outturn of the work during the year under report is shown in the following statement :—

Civil District.	Length of boundary demarcated.		No. of cairns erected.	Amount spent.			Rate per mile.		
	Miles.	Yards.		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Karachi ...	8	1,375	88	109	5	0	12	7	2
Hyderabad ...	9	1,058	97	79	0	0	8	3	7
Total ...	18	673	185	188	5	0	10	3	11

Note.—The cost was greater in the Jerruck than in the Hyderabad Division, owing to no free labour being available in the former.

35. Considering that Mr. Napier was only able to spare about one month and a half (from 10th November to 23rd December 1896), and that the delimitation had to be determined by actual survey, the work turned out could not be greater.

36. From the following summary, the nature of the outstanding work will be seen :—

District.	Total area notified under S. 19.	AREA OF WHICH DEMARCATION IS COMPLETE.				Area partly demarcated by Forest Demarcation Officer.	Area absolutely untouched by any one.
		By Forest Demarcation Officer.	By Divisional or Range Forest Officers and Revenue people.	Total.			
	Acres. g.	Acres. g.	Acres. g.	Acres. g.	Acres. g.	Acres. g.	
Shikarpur ...	17,301 24	14,864 36	2,436 28	17,301 24	...	...	
Hyderabad ...	28,204 15	7,726 31	7,925 17	15,652 8	7,795 4	4,757 3	
Karachi ...	20,769 4	6,613 11	9,770 36	16,384 7	...	4,384 37	
Upper Sind Frontier ...	26,525 11	24,861 13	...	24,861 13	1,663 38	...	
Total ...	92,800 14	54,066 11	20,133 1	74,199 12	9,459 2	9,142 0	

37. Repairs to existing boundaries and boundary marks of the old Reserves were carried out as usual with the assistance of cattle breeders who live within forest limits and

Boundary marks and paths.

other persons in enjoyment of forest privileges. The extent of the operations, and the value of free labour availed of for this purpose, is shown below :—

Division.	No. of boundary marks put up and repaired.	Length of boundary paths cleared and repaired.	Estimated value.
	Miles.	Miles.	Rs. a. p.
Sukkur ...	7,157	948	1,395 0 0
Naushahro ...	2,878	20	404 0 0
Hyderabad ...	1,931	260	984 0 0
Jerruck ...	2,409	178	819 0 0
Total ...	14,375	1,406	3,602 0 0

38. The riverain forests having been flooded to a greater extent than in the previous year, the number of marks replaced or repaired, as well as the length of the boundary paths cleared, was in excess of the year 1895-96 by 2,554 and 922 miles, respectively.

IV.—Surveys.

39. The Forest Survey branch parties of the Government of India have not yet commenced operations in this Circle. The Riverain Survey has been completed, and the maps prepared have been found to be of great use.

CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—Regulation and Management.

(a) Working Plans and their Control.

40. During the year under report, it might be said the year in which a separate Division for preparing Working Plans came into existence, it was not possible for the officers in charge, Messrs. Napier and Dalal, to undertake more work than was done. After completing the demarcation referred to in paragraph 34, work was commenced in the Sukkur Division at the beginning of January 1897 with a view to the organisation of the Rohri, Dubar Wahan, Katha, Changni, and Hingora Forest Reserves in the Sadhuja Range, which, besides being in close proximity of the North-Western Railway line, come within the direct influence of the annual floods and at the same time, being safe from erosion, are not subject to fluctuations in area. The object of taking these areas first in hand is not simply because they play at present a very important part in the fuel supply of the North-Western Railway and the Quetta Commissariat, but chiefly to carry out the intention I have had all along in view to convert them gradually into babul (*Acacia Arabica*) and tali (*Dalbergia Sissoo*) forests by systematic cultural operations, as they are capable of being stocked with these valuable species in place of the existing growth of kandi (*Prosopis Specigera*) and lye (*Tamarix Gallica*). This work was finished by the middle of March, when, at the Commissioner's request, Mr. Napier's services were lent for Plague duty, and he was placed under the orders of the Sukkur Plague Committee. Mr. Dalal, Divisional Forest Officer, Hyderabad, then took charge of the Working Plans office in addition to his own, and before the close of the tour season made a survey in advance of the Miani, Muhammad Khan, Kathri, and Matiari babul reserves in order that correct maps may be ready to enable the organisation of these very valuable State properties being taken in hand at the commencement of the following working season.